PRESIDENT: The Bill will now stand over.

The consideration of the Travancore Partition Bill having been postponed, the House passed on to the next item in the agenda.

RESOLUTIONS ON MATTERS OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST.

The following resolution was deemed to have been withdrawn as the member was absent:

MR. K. PADMANABHA PANIKKAR (*Ambalapuzha*): This Council recommends to the Government that the taxes on *vallams* used purely for agricultural purposes be abolished.

COMMITTEE ON THE REVISION OF SCALES OF PAY AND GRADES OF OFFICERS.

MR. A S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Sir, I beg to move the following resolution:—

"This Council recommends to the Government that a committee with an elected non-official majority be appointed to suggest measures to bring about greater uniformity in the grades and scales of pay and qualifications of officers of the various Departments of the State".

Sir, it has been repeatedly urged in this Council that the amount that is set apart for the salaries of officers is disproportionately large and that some method should be found out for reducing the same. It has also been brought to the notice of the Council that the low-paid subordinates of the departments, peons and others, are not getting sufficient pay in order to enable them to have a decent living. Another complaint that has been raised with regard to the pay of officers is that the officers in the higher grades—the Heads of Departments including the Dewan and other high-paid officers—are drawing too high salaries that some substantial reduction should be made. A fourth objection that has been levelled against the present system is that many of the departments are over-staffed and that without detriment to efficiency, some reduction could be effected in the number of persons serving in each of the departments.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I know whether the member is aware of the existence of the Retrenchment Committee and its labours?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I am fully aware of that—its constitution, how it is functioning and all that. But I know quite well that the Retrenchment Committee will not do the functions which the committee contemplated under my resolution is to perform.

Sir, it is with this object that I suggest that a committee with an elected non-official majority be appointed to go into the whole question and to rectify the defects which have been brought to the notice of this Council on many occasions.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Does the resolution suggest the reduction of appointments?

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